

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4638

### 1. Name

Historic 1701-1709 North Spring Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1701-1709 North Spring Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

#### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

#### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military

☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
 date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of five two story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices are the remaining units of a row of seven houses built in 1893 by Steptoe Hutt, a prominent builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork, as well as the paired first floor windows, represent vernacular translations of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore c. 1880. 1701-1705 N. Spring have been covered with formstone, 1707 has been stuccoed, but 1709 retains its original brick facade.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 70'6" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond, although, as noted, three have been covered with formstone and one stuccoed. The shed roof is capped by a continuous cornice (for every three units) consisting of a simple sheet metal crown molding, set above elaborate stepped-brick decoration. The pattern of the brickwork is created by running two rows of slightly projecting stretchers across the entire facade, set above individually detailed decorative units composed of four more rows of progressively recessed stretchers framed on either side by headers, which then continue down for a fifth row to punctuate the composition. Further decorative brickwork appears in the form of a belt course created by two projecting rows of stretchers which frame a single row of the facade bricks.

The door and window openings all originally had segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of double rows of headers, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. Showing the stylistic influence of Queen Anne designs, the wider first floor window is composed of paired 1/1 sash with a wide molding between. Likewise, the basement window has paired sash set beneath a segmental arch composed of two rows of headers. This design was a much less expensive method of obtaining the more fashionable look of a wide, first-floor plate glass window. Second floor sash were 2/2 (two sets remain--at 1705 and 1707), a design feature that reiterated the proportions established in the wider, double 1/1 sash of the first floor window. The original doorway transom had two lights. The houses sit on medium-height basements lighted by a wide (double) front window matching the design of that of the first floor window, with its wide central molding strip, segmentally arched lintel, and scroll-sawn tympanum. Each front door (no original doors remain) is reached by three concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Area of significance                             | check one & justify                                    |   |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation                  | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                     | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education                     | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                   | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | humanitarian                                |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration                   | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theatre            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900                 | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                      | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other: specify     |  |

**Specific dates** 1893

**Builder/Architect** Steptoe Hutt

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by Steptoe Hutt, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders like Hutt acquired anywhere from an eighth to a quarter of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. In this case, Hutt built 14' wide, two story, three-bay wide houses on the north side of Lanvale St. that sold for \$1500 (with \$45 ground rents), whereas his 12' wide two story, two-bay wide houses on Spring St. cost only \$500 (with \$30 ground rents).

Hutt sold all of the houses he built on Lanvale Street to German owner-occupants, who received their mortgages from a select group of local North-East Baltimore building and loans, including notably, the 21st German-American Building Association. Some of the first buyers of these homes on Lanvale St. were John G. Vaupel, Jr. a bookprinter, and Patrick F. Orr, a policeman. He sold the Spring St. houses to four different local businessmen—including the owner of a dairy, a carpenter, and a plumber, who retained them for their rental income. In this way people who could not afford the \$500 purchase price (at least a quarter of which had to be paid in cash) could pay the \$8 a month average rent while saving to become homeowners.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BCLR, JB 1143/386; JB 1463/179; JB 1466/155

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date 1999

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

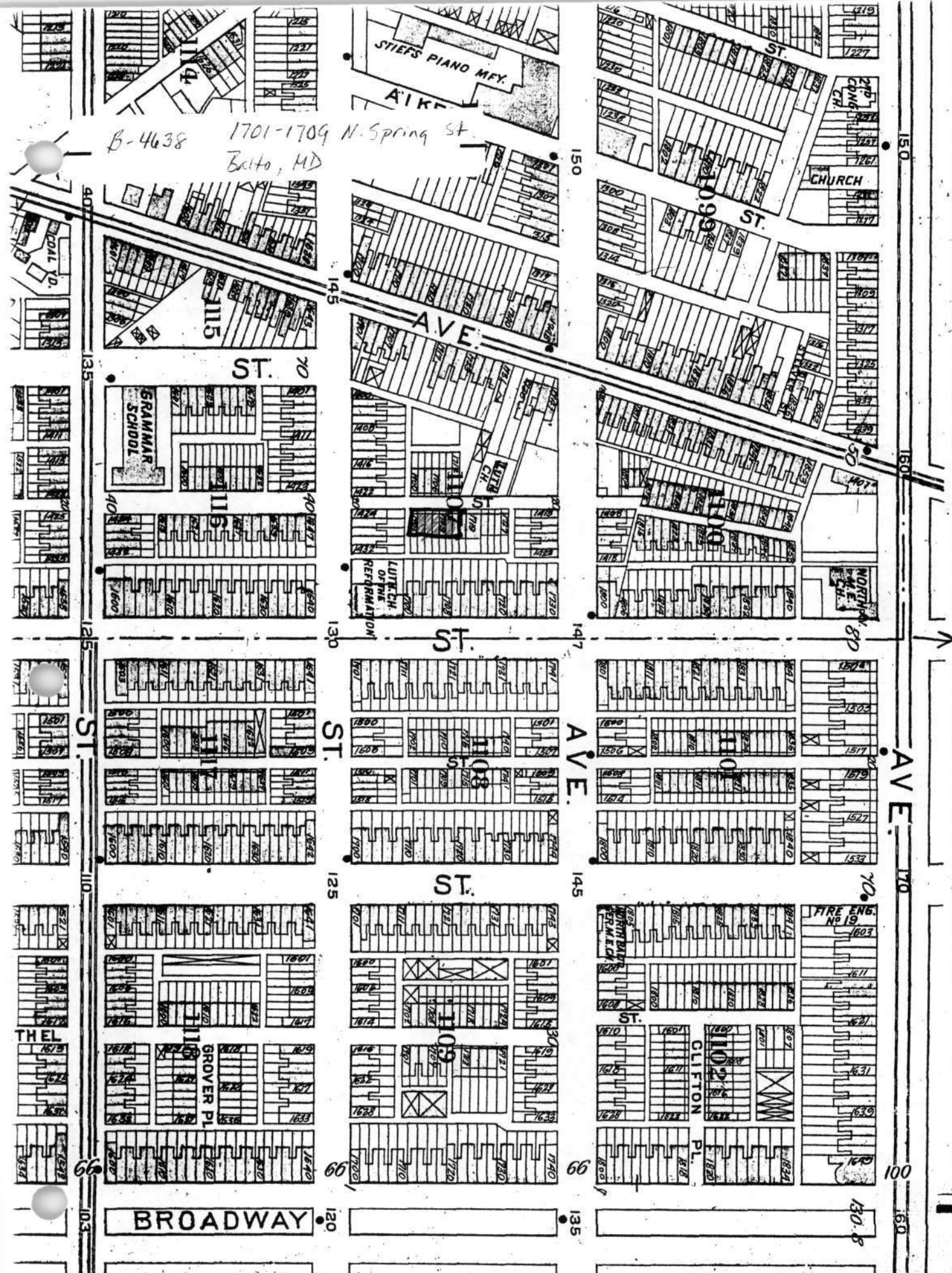
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

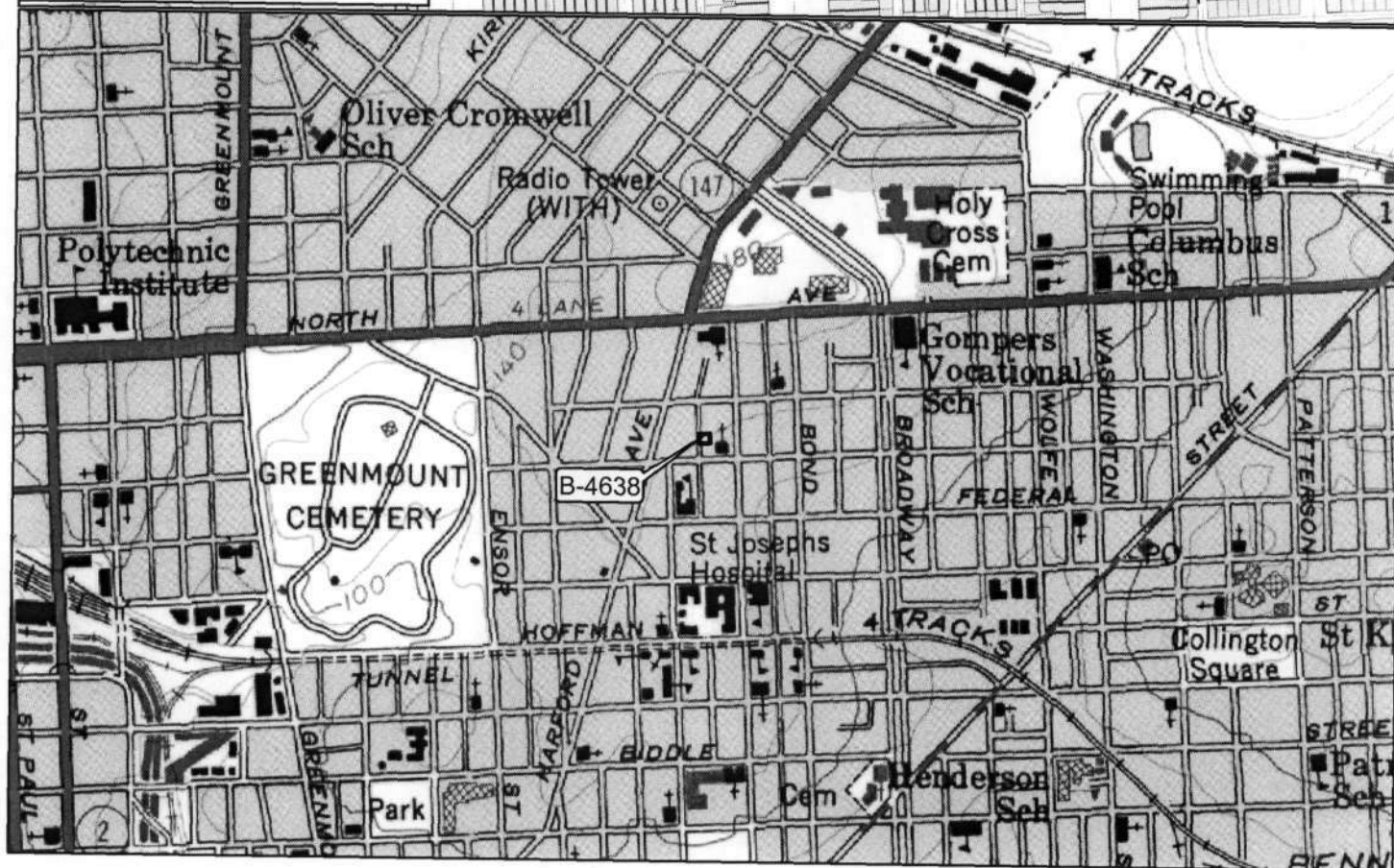
Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4638 1701-1709 N. Spring St  
Baltimore, MD



B-4638  
1701-1709 N. Spring Street  
Block 1107  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4638

1701-1709 N. Spring St.

Baltimore, MD

Wayne Neild

9/96

180

[27]115 0211 NWN12

MD SHPO

1/3





Carlos  
Lipshutz

170

B-4638

1707 Spring St.

Balt. MD

W. Nield

9/96

2/9

100

1260115 0211 N N N 12



PRIVATE  
PROPERTY  
NO  
THESSPASSING

709

B-4638

1709 Spring St.

Ballo. HI)

W. Nield

9/96

3/3

160

[250115 0211 N N N 12